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Date 14 March '90

Francis Raborn Jr., 84, former CIA director

Former CIA Director Francis Raborn Jr., 84, a retired Navy vice admiral who led the development of the Polaris missile in 1955, died of cardiac arrest March 6 at Sibley Memorial Hospital. He lived in McLean.

Adm. Raborn, a native of Decatur, Texas, was appointed by President Johnson to head the Central Intelligence Agency in 1965. After some criticism from his colleagues, he left his position the following year and was succeeded by Richard Helms, his deputy.

He was chosen by Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, chief of naval operations, to head Navy missile development and brought in the nuclear-tipped Polaris missile on time and on budget. It was the first solid-fuel, long-range missile launchable from a submerged submarine.

An aviator who served aboard aircraft carriers during World War II, he helped establish an aviation gunnery school in Hawaii and became executive officer of the aircraft carrier Hancock. He commanded the carrier Bennington after the war. He received a Silver Star.

From 1949 to 1950, Adm. Raborn worked on research and development of guided missiles in the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance in Washington. He retired from the Navy in 1963 as deputy chief of naval operations for development.

Services were held Monday.